

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for providing request compatibility in a  
2 multicast system, said method comprising:
- 3 receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router,  
4 requests for traffic from said group of receivers;
- 5 determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible  
6 request types;
- 7 if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at  
8 least two groups based on type; and
- 9 sending requests of different types to said router from different addresses of the  
10 layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of different types  
11 are from different hosts.
- 1 2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include  
2 a single-source request and an any-source request.
- 1 3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein said single-source request comprises an  
2 IGMP v3 request.
- 1 4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 2, wherein said any-source re-  
2 quest comprises an IGMP v2 request.
- 1 5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include  
2 an include request and an exclude request.

1 6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein said act of sending  
2 requests of different types to said router from different addresses further comprises:

3 creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and

4 creating a second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 6, further comprising sending  
2 requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said first MAC address, and  
3 sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC  
4 address.

1 8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a  
2 multicast system, said apparatus comprising:

3 a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router;

4 said layer 2 switch configured to:

5 receive requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

6 determine whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;

7 separate said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if in-  
8 compatible request types exist; and

9 send said requests of different types to said router from different addresses  
10 of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of  
11 different types are from different hosts.

1 9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said single-source request comprises  
2 an IGMP v3 request.

1 11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said any-source  
2 request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 8, further configured to create  
2 a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and create a second host identity lo-  
3 cated at a second MAC address.

1 14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 13, further configured send  
2 requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said first MAC address, and  
3 send requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC ad-  
4 dress.

1 15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a  
2 multicast system, said apparatus comprising:

3 means for receiving, at a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and  
4 a router, requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

5 means for determining, at said switch, whether said traffic requests contain in-  
6 compatible request types;

7 means for separating said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if  
8 incompatible request types exist; and

9 means for sending requests of different types to said router from different ad-  
10 dresses of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of  
11 different types are from different hosts.

1 16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said single-source request com-  
2 prises an IGMP v3 request.

1 18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said any-source  
2 request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means  
2 for creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and means for creating a  
3 second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means  
2 for sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said first MAC  
3 address, and means for sending requests of a second type from said second identity lo-  
4 cated at said second MAC address.

1 22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a  
3 method for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said method compris-  
4 ing:

5 receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router,  
6 requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

7 determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible  
8 request types;

9 if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at  
10 least two groups based on type; and

11 sending requests of different types to said router from different addresses of the  
12 layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of different types  
13 are from different hosts.

1 23. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 24. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 23, wherein said single-source request comprises  
2 an IGMP v3 request.

1 25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 23, wherein said any-source re-  
2 quest comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 26. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types in-  
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 22, wherein said act of sending  
2 requests of different types to said router from different addresses further comprises:

3 creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and

4 creating a second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 27, said method further compris-  
2 ing sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said first MAC  
3 address, and sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said  
4 second MAC address.

1 29. (NEW) A method comprising:

2 receiving, by a switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router, a plural-  
3 ity of Internet Group Multicast Protocol (IGMP) requests;

4 determining, by the switch, that the plurality of IGMP requests include both  
5 IGMP requests of a first type and IGMP requests of a second type;

6 separating the plurality of IGMP requests into at least two groups based on their  
7 type, a first group to include the IGMP requests of the first type and a second group to  
8 include the multicast IGMP requests of the second type; and

9 sending, by the switch, the source multicast IGMP requests of the first group to  
10 the router using a first Media Access Control (MAC) address assigned to the switch and  
11 sending source-specific multicast IGMP requests of the second group to the router using  
12 a second MAC address assigned to the switch, the second MAC address different from  
13 the first MAC address, to present an appearance to the router that the IGMP requests of  
14 the first type and the IGMP requests of the second type are from different hosts.

1 30. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein the IGMP requests of the first type are  
2 IGMP include requests that request a particular source be included.

1 31. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein the IGMP requests of the second type are  
2 IGMP exclude requests that request a particular source be excluded.

1 32. (NEW) The method of claim 29, further comprising:  
2 separately aggregating, by the router, the IGMP requests of the first type and the  
3 IGMP requests of the second type.